A Medical Journey in California by Dr. Pierre Garnier, introduced and annotated by
Doyce B. Nunis Jr., and translated by L. Jay Oliva, Los Angeles, Zeitlin & Ver
Brugge, 1967, pp. xii, 93, illus., $12.50.

True Californians usually have a very recent migratory ancestry and a deep love
for the short but lively history of their land. Garnier’s narrative was first published
in 1949 by the French-American scholar Gilbert Chinard, and has now been translated
by Oliva with an introduction by Nunis. The book is handsomely printed. Pierre
Garnier (1819–1901) was a French physician who visited California between April
1851 and November 1852. He was a keen observer and well-read physician, who,
prior to his journey, had learned, and later confirmed, the high reputation of Aztec
medicine from Clavijero, and was well aware of current literature. He refers, among
others, to the work of Kerner, who has not been identified by the editors, this being
Christian A. J. Kerner (1786–1862) who first described botulism in 1820. Garnier is
objective above the medical problems affecting the mining camps of California, and
the early practitioners and hospitals of that territory. Furthermore, he is not tainted
with the patronising sophistication to be found in the narratives of Moreau de St.
Mery and other French travellers who visited Eastern United States some years
prior to Garnier. The introduction by Nunis offers an excellent schedule of early
medical practice in California, entailing considerable research. It is therefore strange
that the most important narrative of California by a physician—that of José Mariano
Moziño in 1793—has been omitted.

Francisco Guerra

Books also received

Agulló y Cobo, M. Documentos sobre Medicos Españoles de los Siglos XVI al XVIII,
Universidad de Salamanca (Monograph No. 12), 1969, pp. 110, no price stated.

Bullough, Vern L., and Bullough, Bonnie, The Emergence of Modern Nursing,

Comas, Juan, Dos Micronéfalos “Aztecas”, Mexico, Instituto de Investigaciones
Historicas, 1968, pp. 134, illus., no price stated.

(paperback), Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press; London, Oxford University

Granjel, Luis S. Humanismo y Medicina, Salamanca, Seminario de Historia de la
Medicina Española, 1968, pp. 376, no price stated.

Granjel, Luis S., Manual de Historia de la Medicina, Salamanca, Seminario de
Historia de la Medicina Española, 1968, pp. 195, no price stated.

Hall, Rupert, and Hall, Marie Boas (eds.), The Correspondence of Henry Oldenburg,
Vol. IV, 1667–1668, Madison, Milwaukee, and London, University of Wisconsin
Press, 1968, pp. xxv, 601, illus., 119s. 0d.

[See the review of the first three volumes of this work in Medical History, 1968,
12, 208–9.]

Muñoz Garrido, R., and Muñoz Fernández, C., Fuentes Legales de la Medicina
Española (Siglos XIII–XIX), Universidad de Salamanca (Monograph No. 11),